



The Portable Mark Twain

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Satirist, novelist, and keen observer of the American scene, Mark Twain remains one of the world's best-loved writers. This delightful collection of Twain's favorite and most memorable writings includes selected tales and sketches such as *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, *How I Edited an Agricultural Journal Once*, *Jim Baker's Blue-Jay Yarn*, and *A True Story*. It also features excerpts from his novels and travel books (including *Roughing It*, *The Innocents Abroad*, and *Life on the Mississippi*, among others; autobiographical and polemical writings; as well as selected letters and speeches. The collection also reprints the complete text of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, including the often omitted *raftsmen* passage.

Contents:

The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County (1865)

How I Edited an Agricultural Journal Once (1870)

Selections From Roughing It (1872)

An Encounter with an Interviewer (1874)

A True Story, Repeated Word for Word as I Heard It (1874)

Selections from

-The Innocents Abroad (1869)

-The Gilded Age (1873)

-A Tramp Abroad (1880)

-Life on the Mississippi (1883)

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885) [Complete Novel]

The Private History of a Campaign That Failed (1885)

Selections from A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889)

Extracts from Adam's Diary (1893)

Selections from

-The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson (1894)

-Following the Equator (1897)

To the Person Sitting in Darkness (1901)

Corn-Pone Opinions (1901)

Early Days (1907)

Speeches

Letters

The Portable Mark Twain Details

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From Reader Review The Portable Mark Twain for online ebook

Patrick says

This is the best way to get acquainted with Twain's writings. To be honest, I struggle through most of his writings. They just don't jump out at me and grab me. I like his travel writings more than his fiction or essays, but even they can be too dry and dense for me at times. Maybe it's the time difference or the cultural difference, but I at least see the strong influence he has had on subsequent American humorists, from Mad Magazine to Kurt Vonnegut's writings. We have to thank him for his humor and writings and his positive influence on American culture.

Nitanews says

One of my all-time favs. Some great short stories here...

Susan says

Although I've read some of the Twain's most admired novels like Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper, etc., I wanted to read some of the shorter pieces for which he first became known. This is a fine selection of those and a good introduction to his work, as it also contains selections from the novels. I think I had forgotten how very good Twain could be and I'm going next to pursue some biographical background.

Brendan says

Although my experience with his works is not yet complete, I can safely say that I will always consider Mark Twain to be one of the absolute giants of American literature, standing favorably to any sampling of Hemingway or Emerson you can find. I think the brilliance of his writing, as evidenced in this collection of short stories and novel excerpts, is that while his stories almost always involve period events and often have characters speaking in rural 19th-century Missouri dialect, his characters (including himself in autobiographical essays) are immediately accessible and so recognizable to us in so many ways as ourselves. It is a very rare writer indeed who writes for his times and causes readers to chuckle aloud almost two centuries later. If you're not sure you'll like Twain, pick this book up and read a couple of stories - you'll get a great overview of his work, and, more likely than not, be on the bandwagon before long.

Queen Keely Tubbs of Salt "the Last of the Moral, Conservative Catholics on the Internet" (aka *Keelskilo*) says

Eh. I mean, I'm actually not that big a Mark Twain fan just in general.

I know. Shoot me now, right?

But seriously. It's nothing personal--it's not like I think he's a horrendous writer or anything--he just doesn't have a style that clicks with me personally.

Plus, the fact that every professor/teacher I've ever had sort of puffs him up to be the amazing writer...Sorta sets a person up for disappointment, you know?

So there's that.

Three stars and done.

Stacy Crandall says

Excellent collection of writings by Samuel Langhorne Clemens, AKA Mark Twain.

Andy Farley says

Long time since I've read Twain; laugh out loud funny and cuts deep with his scorn.

Irish Gal says

First of all, it's 2" thick, so it's not all that "portable". But I'm enjoying the short stories and clips of his autobiography and Pud'dnhead Wilson's calendar. I skipped over the excerpts of "A Conn. Yankee..." and "Huckleberry Finn". I haven't read the first in its entirety so reading just a chapter seemed awkward.

Realini says

Cannibalism in The Cars by Mark Twain

Can you combine horror, cannibalism and...humor?

Looking at the title, we must expect ghastly, descriptions of gore, humans at their worst.

But the name of the author suggests another approach, as we wouldn't expect the author of Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer, Jumping Frog and other humorous tales to engage in a saga of blood and humans eating men's flesh.

The story begins with an innocent, if puzzling introduction, with some talk on political activities, which engage the attention of a character who stars his story within the story-

A group of politicians had been travelling on a train, in the winter snow. They get stuck and this is where their ordeal starts. They spend days in the snow, without food- the snow provides them with water.

As in other stories we have read or seen as films, the issue of eating one of them arises. The fact is that now we get such stories in the news, albeit not every day, there are few people eating each other literally.

Figuratively speaking, the Russians are eating up the Ukraine, slowly and with its supposedly willing

Russian speaking militias.

There is the infamous case of the South American airline which crashed in the mountains with a group of survivors having to eat human flesh to survive. In that case the people eaten had been dead, killed by the crash and their flesh helped the surviving party to come back home alive, over the mountains and after a very tough journey.

The politicians make their death game funny by turning the “election” of breakfast and supper into an uproarious enterprise with votes, expression of fondness for the good bodily weight of one and disillusion of the apparent toughness of the meat on the bones of another.

The narrator expresses delight at the meal made from one colleague and disappointment at the taste of some other congressman. We are both repelled and entertained by this “Hunger Game”.

It was puzzling to read about them repeating so often and cooking so many of them. I expected a break of at least a few days between sacrifices, but once started the culinary show went on uninterrupted. Or didn’t it? There are some issues which cast some doubt, but I will not talk about what happens towards the end, only to say that the finale is entertaining and in a degree surprising.

It is an impressive feat to be both hilarious and scary. It happens in this very short saga, without the popular vampires of today.

Christiana says

I only read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn out of this book. I enjoyed Huck Finn and am glad that I read it.

The only problem I had with the book was understanding some of the dialect but that got easier as I read. That is why I gave it a 4 instead of a five.

I think that at a later point I may read some more Mark Twain.

Frank Schofield says

Exceptional book a pleasure to read parts of several of Twain's books. The full book of Huck Finn was especially great to read again. A must for everyone to read.

P.S. Winn says

Great collection, if you haven't read Mark Twain, grab this, if you have, gab it anyway and take the journey all over again.
